

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A catalytic material comprising a catalytic component and a catalyst carrier for supporting said catalytic component; wherein the catalyst carrier contains atoms that can be able to form covalent bonds with said catalytic component.
2. (Original) The catalytic material according to claim 1, wherein said catalyst carrier contains carbon.
3. (Original) A catalytic material comprising a catalytic component and a catalyst carrier which comprises carbon; wherein said catalyst carrier has a structure in which part of the carbon atoms is replaced with atoms that can be able to form covalent bonds with said catalytic component.
4. (Original) The catalytic material according to claim 1, wherein said catalytic component is platinum or a platinum compound.
5. (Original) The catalytic material according to claim 1, wherein said catalytic component is at least one member selected from the group consisting of platinum, ruthenium and their compounds.

6. (Original) The catalytic material according to claim 1, wherein said catalytic component is at least one member selected from the group consisting of platinum, ruthenium, manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, rhodium, palladium, rhenium, and iridium, and their compounds.

7. (Currently Amended) A catalytic material comprising a catalytic component and a catalyst carrier for supporting said catalytic component; wherein said catalyst carrier further contains a catalytic component and at least one member selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atoms, oxygen atoms, ~~phosphor~~ phosphorus atoms, and sulfur atoms.

8.-11. (Cancelled)